

Evolution of the Council Policy Manual

The City of Sunnyvale Legislative Policy Manual (LPM) was created in the early 1980s as a compendium of adopted City Council policies of a continuing nature viewed as mechanisms to assist in achievement of General Plan goals. The format of the Manual is tied to the City's General Plan. The General Plan is a set of long-term goals and policies that guide local government decisions. The existence and basic components of a General Plan are required by Government Code §65302 and §65303. Sunnyvale's General Plan is divided into Elements and Sub-Elements, which periodically are revised. Each Element and Sub-Element contains Goals, Policies and Action Statements, which are replicated as the first set of policies in each section.

The Manual was revised and reissued in 1987. Over the years, as policies are created, revised or eliminated they are reflected in revisions to the LPM. An effort has been made to maintain and keep current the legislative history of each policy at the end of each policy.

Prior to late 1997 the City's General Plan included a Transportation Element and a Community Development Element with a Sub-Element pertaining to Land Use. In November 1997 the City Council adopted a combined Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) with one set of Goals, Policies and Action Statements. This organizational change necessitated regrouping and renumbering several legislative policies.

The City Council passed Resolution No. 207-99 to retire the Energy Sub-Element of the City of Sunnyvale's General Plan on December 7, 1999 (RTC 99-513) because energy related issues were covered in other portions of the General Plan, notably the LUTE, Community Design, Air Quality, Solid Waste, and Water Conservation. Policies related to that Sub-Element were eliminated and replaced by Policy 3.5.1.

In 2004 a project was undertaken to update and republish the Legislative Policy Manual to be sure it contained all relevant policies. This project, completed in 2005, resulted in the reorganization reflected in the present Table of Contents and the renaming of the Legislative Policy Manual to the Council Policy Manual.

In January 2006 the City Council adopted a combined Open Space and Recreation Sub-Element with one set of sub-element policies.

June 30, 2006